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Hwang

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(54) **DETERMINATION OF BEZEL AREA ON TOUCH SCREEN**

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CPC **G06F 3/0416** (2013.01); **G06F 3/041**
(2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
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See application file for complete search history.

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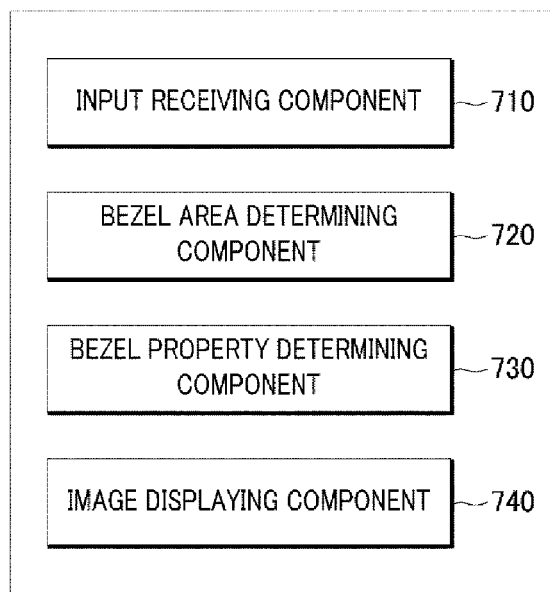
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An end device may include a touch screen; a touch screen manager configured to: determine a first area and a second area on the touch screen, and determine at least one of a display property or a touch sensing property of the first area to be different from that of the second area; and a processor configured to: display an image on the first area and the second area.

17 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets

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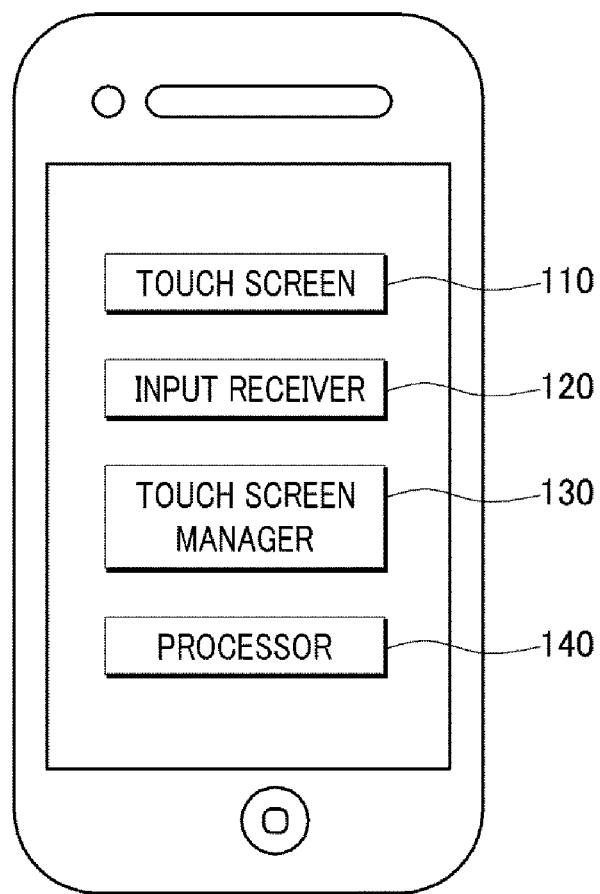
*FIG. 1*100

FIG. 2

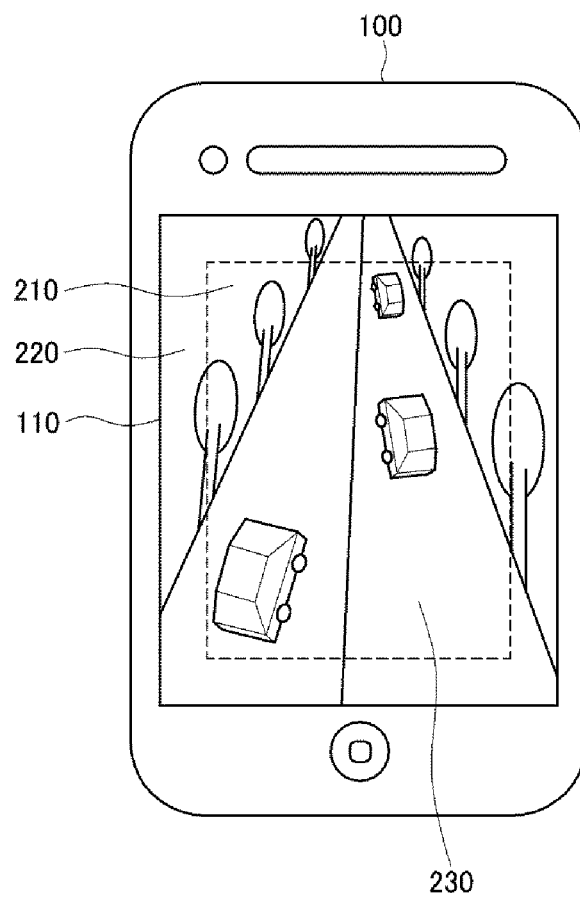


FIG. 3

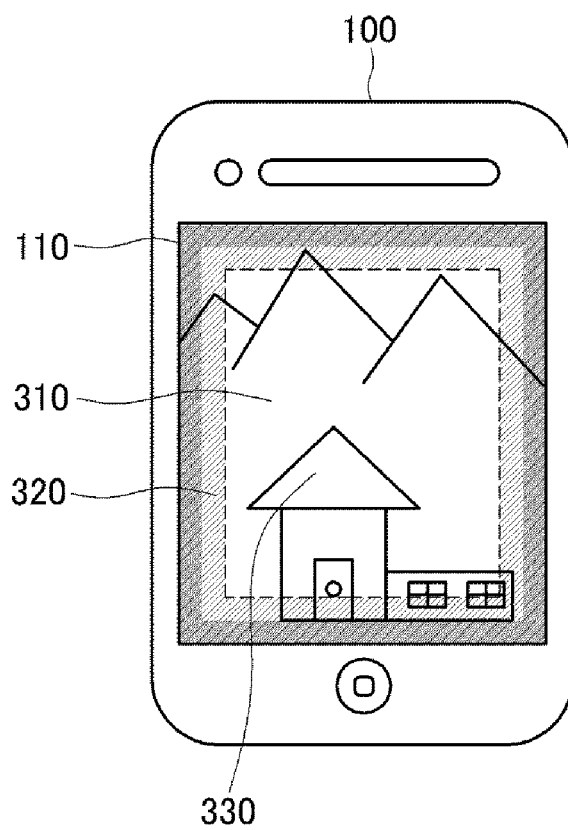


FIG. 4

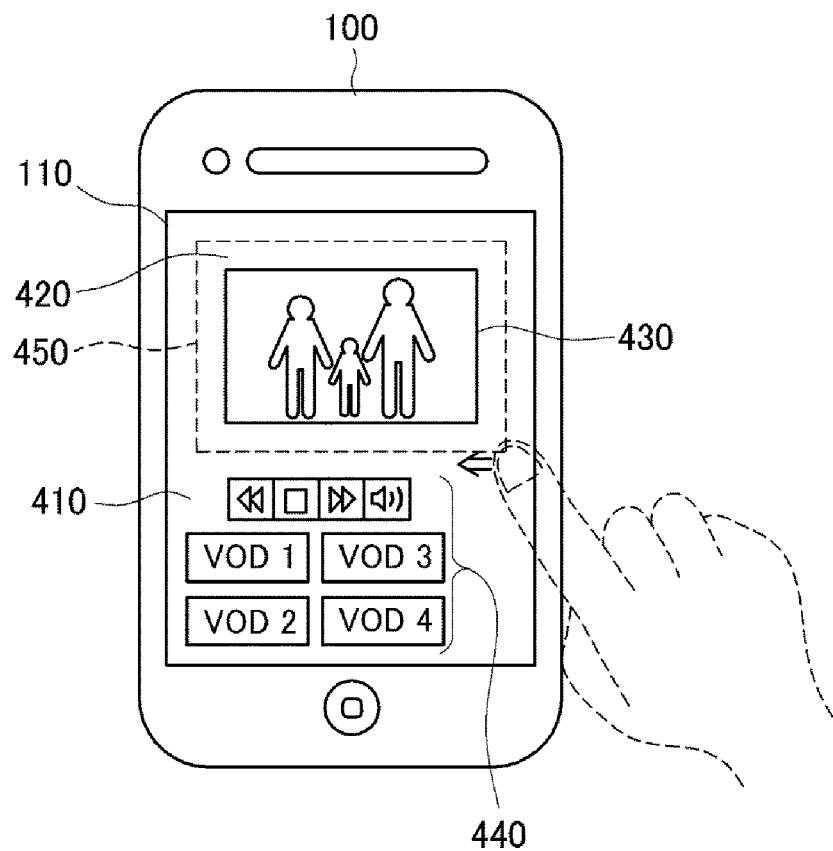


FIG. 5A

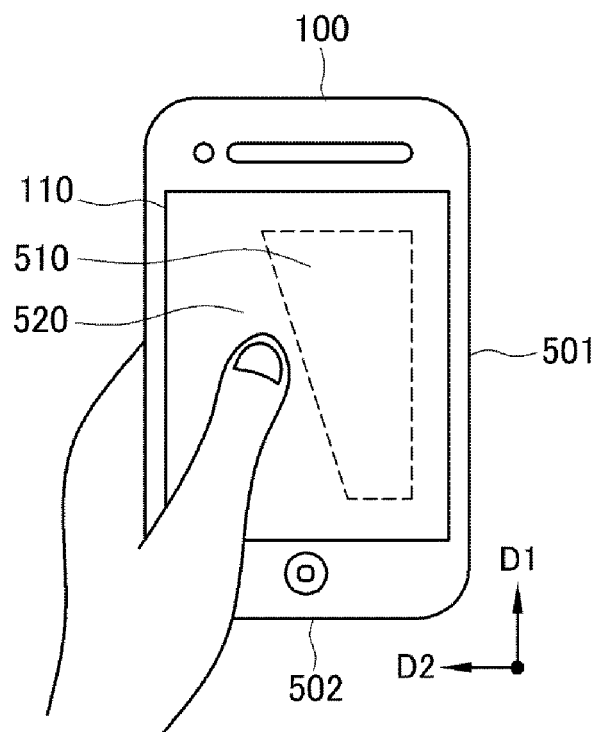


FIG. 5B

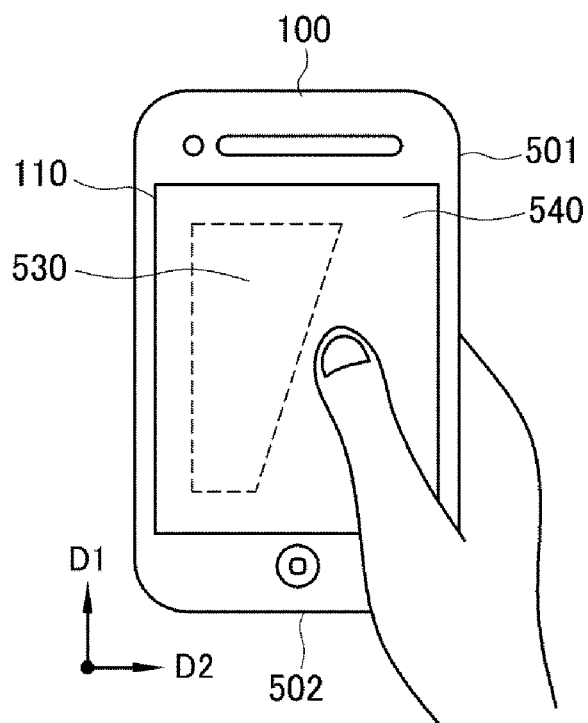


FIG. 5C

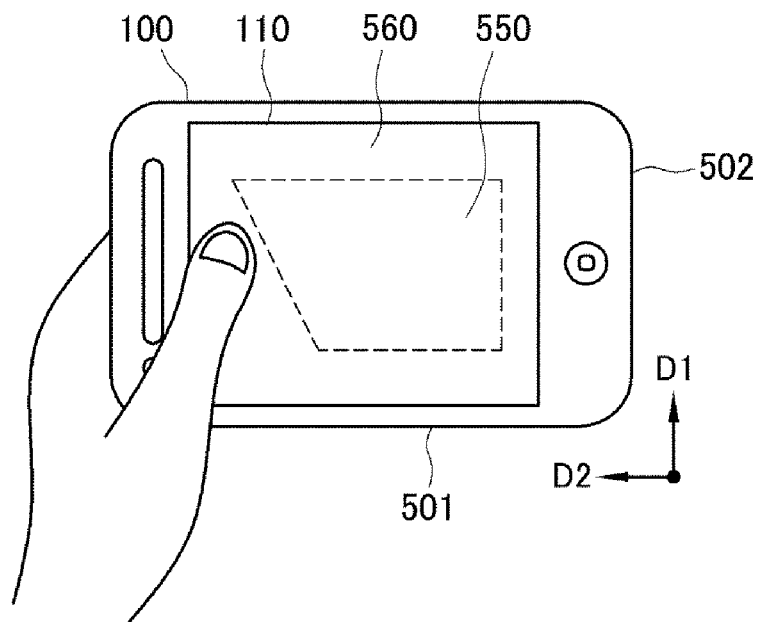
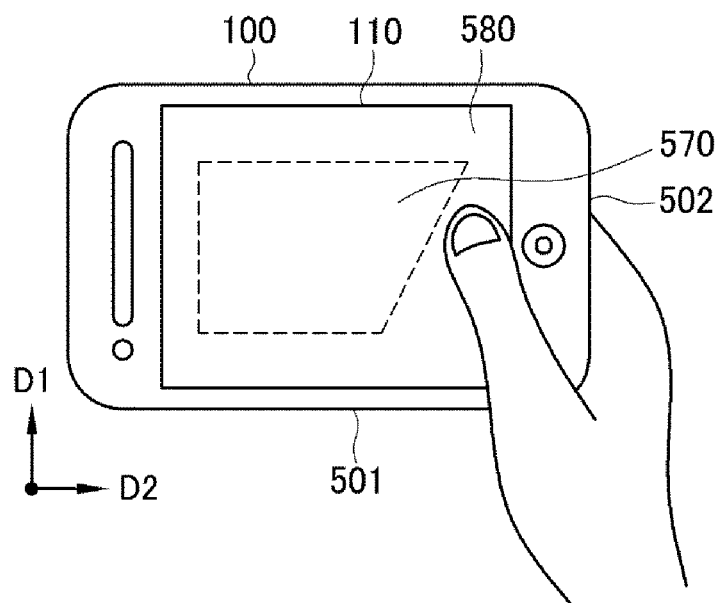
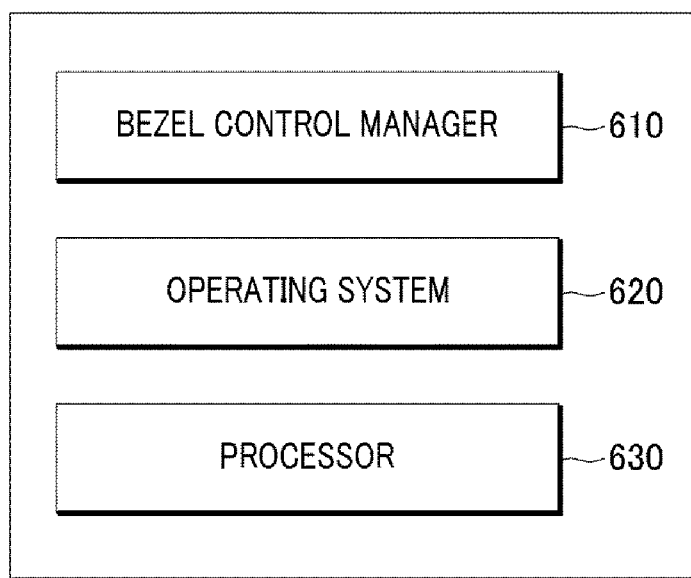


FIG. 5D



*FIG. 6*100

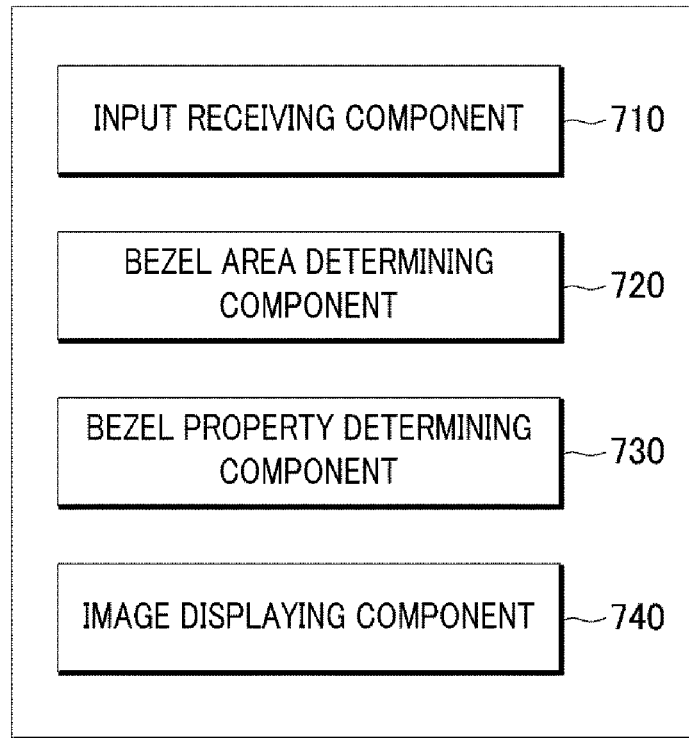
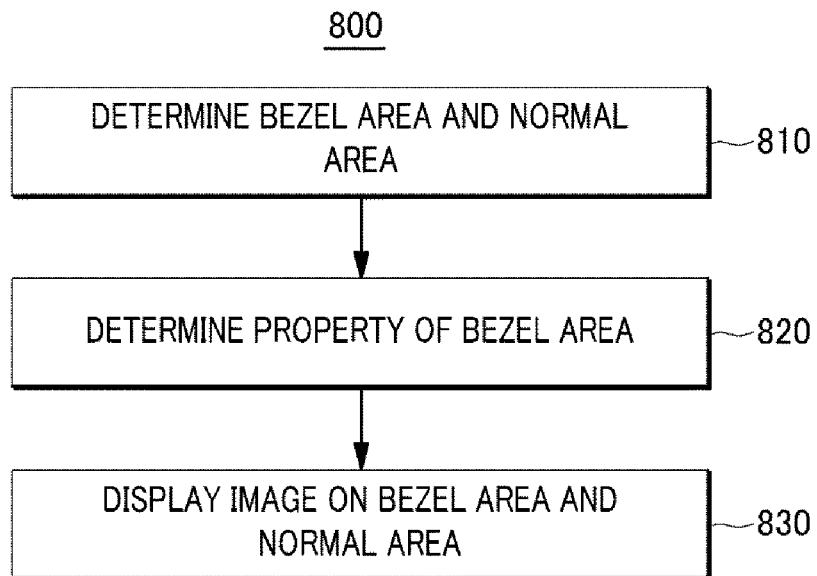
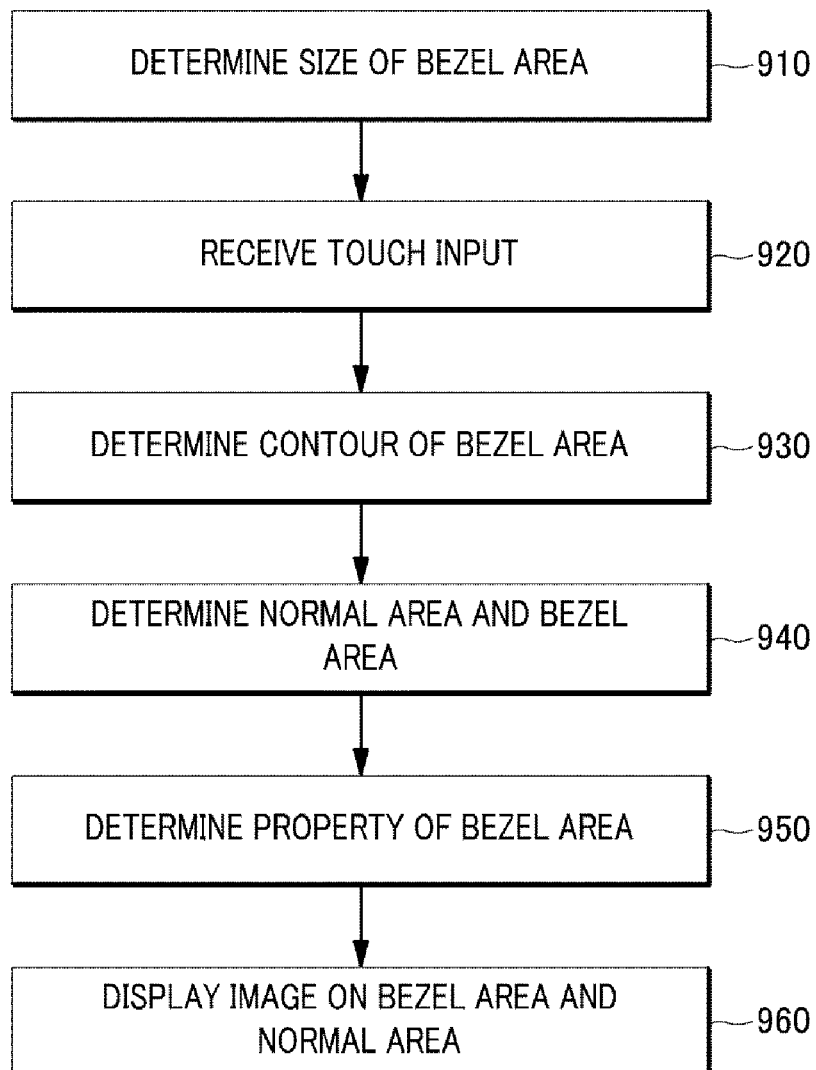
*FIG. 7*610

FIG. 8

*FIG. 9*900

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DETERMINATION OF BEZEL AREA ON TOUCH SCREEN

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATION

This application claims priority from the Korean Patent Application No. 10-2013-0074902, filed on Jun. 27, 2013 in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FIELD

Example embodiments broadly relate to a device having a bezel displayed on a touch screen.

BACKGROUND

Touch-sensitive displays (also known as “touch screens” or “touchscreens”) are well known in the art. Touch screens may be used in many electronic devices to display graphics and text, and to provide a user interface through which a user may interact with the devices. Touch screens are becoming more popular for use as displays and as user input devices on portable devices, such as mobile telephones and personal digital assistants (PDAs).

SUMMARY

According to an aspect of example embodiments, there is provided an end device including a touch screen; a touch screen manager configured to: determine a first area and a second area on the touch screen, and determine at least one of a display property or a touch sensing property of the first area to be different from that of the second area; and a processor configured to: display an image on the first area and the second area.

The touch screen manager may further determine a size and/or a position of the first area, based at least in part on context information of the end device.

The end device may further include an input receiver configured to receive a touch input. Further, the touch screen manager may further determine a contour of the first area, based at least in part on the received touch input.

The context information may include at least one of a status of a battery coupled to the end device, a shape of a grip of a user on the touch screen, an orientation of the end device or an application hosted on the end device.

The touch sensing property may include at least one of a touch sensitivity of the first area, or turn on/off of touch sensors of the first area.

The display property may include at least one of a brightness, a resolution, a transparency, a visibility or a chroma of the first area.

The touch screen manager may further divide the first area into a plurality of sub-areas, and may respectively determine the display property of each of the plurality of sub-areas.

According to another aspect of example embodiments, there is provided a computer-readable storage medium having thereon computer-executable instructions that, in response to execution, cause one or more processors of an end device having a touch screen to perform operations including determining a first area and a second area on the touch screen; determining at least one of a display property or a touch sensing property of the first area to be different from that of the second area; and displaying an image on the first area and the second area.

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The determining of the first area and the second area may include determining a size and/or a position of the first area based at least in part on context information of the end device.

The operations may further include receiving a touch input; and determining a contour of the first area, based at least in part on the received touch input.

The context information may include at least one of a status of a battery coupled to the end device, a shape of a grip of a user on the touch screen, an orientation of the end device or an application hosted on the end device.

The touch sensing property may include at least one of a touch sensitivity of the first area, or turn on/off of touch sensors of the first area.

The display property may include at least one of a brightness, a resolution, a transparency, a visibility or a chroma of the first area.

The determining of the display property of the first area may include: dividing the first area into a plurality of sub-areas, and respectively determining the display property of each of the plurality of sub-areas.

According to still another aspect of example embodiments, a method performed under control of an end device having a touch screen may include: determining a first area and a second area on the touch screen; determining at least one of a display property or a touch sensing property of the first area to be different from that of the second area; and displaying an image on the first area and the second area.

The determining of the first area and the second area may include determining a size and/or a position of the first area based at least in part on context information of the end device.

The method may further include: receiving a touch input; and determining a contour of the first area, based at least in part on the received touch input.

The context information may include at least one of a status of a battery coupled to the end device, a shape of a grip of a user on the touch screen, an orientation of the end device or an application hosted on the end device.

The touch sensing property may include at least one of a touch sensitivity of the first area, or turn on/off of touch sensors of the first area.

The display property may include at least one of a brightness, a resolution, a transparency, a visibility or a chroma of the first area.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Non-limiting and non-exhaustive example embodiments will be described in conjunction with the accompanying drawings. Understanding that these drawings depict only example embodiments and are, therefore, not intended to limit its scope, the example embodiments will be described with specificity and detail taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 schematically shows an example configuration of an end device in accordance with at least some embodiments described herein;

FIG. 2 schematically shows an illustrative example of an end device in accordance with at least some embodiments described herein;

FIG. 3 schematically shows another illustrative example of an end device in accordance with at least some embodiments described herein;

FIG. 4 schematically shows still another illustrative example of an end device in accordance with at least some embodiments described herein;

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FIGS. 5A to 5D schematically show still another illustrative examples of an end device in accordance with at least some embodiments described herein;

FIG. 6 schematically shows another example configuration of an end device in accordance with at least some embodiments described herein;

FIG. 7 schematically shows an example configuration of a bezel control manager in accordance with at least some embodiments described herein;

FIG. 8 shows an example processing flow for implementing at least portions of a bezel area on a touch screen described herein; and

FIG. 9 shows another example processing flow for implementing at least portions of a bezel area on a touch screen described herein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Hereinafter, some embodiments will be described in detail. It is to be understood that the following description is given only for the purpose of illustration and is not to be taken in a limiting sense. The scope of the invention is not intended to be limited by the embodiments described hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, but is intended to be limited only by the appended claims and equivalents thereof.

It is also to be understood that in the following description of embodiments any direct connection or coupling between functional blocks, devices, components, circuit elements or other physical or functional units shown in the drawings or described herein could also be implemented by an indirect connection or coupling, i.e. a connection or coupling comprising one or more intervening elements. Furthermore, it should be appreciated that functional blocks or units shown in the drawings may be implemented as separate circuits in some embodiments, but may also be fully or partially implemented in a common circuit in other embodiments. In other words, the provision of functional blocks in the drawings is intended to give a clear understanding of the various functions performed, but is not to be construed as indicating that the corresponding functions are necessarily implemented in physically separate entities.

It is further to be understood that any connection which is described as being wire-based in the following specification may also be implemented as a wireless communication connection unless noted to the contrary.

The features of the various embodiments described herein may be combined with each other unless specifically noted otherwise. On the other hand, describing an embodiment with a plurality of features is not to be construed as indicating that all those features are necessary for practicing the present invention, as other embodiments may comprise less features and/or alternative features.

FIG. 1 schematically shows an example configuration of an end device 100 in accordance with at least some embodiments described herein. As depicted in FIG. 1, end device 100 may include a touch screen 110, an input receiver 120, a touch screen manager 130 and a processor 140. Although illustrated as discrete components, various components may be divided into additional components, combined into fewer components, or eliminated altogether while being contemplated within the scope of the disclosed subject matter. It will be understood by those skilled in the art that each function and/or operation of the components may be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by a wide range of hardware, software, firmware, or any combination thereof. In that regard, one or more of input receiver 120, touch screen manager 130

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and processor 140 may be included in an instance of an application hosted on end device 100.

Non-limiting examples of end device 100 may include a smart phone, a smart television, a tablet computer, a phablet device, a mobile phone, or a personal communication terminal, such as PCS (Personal Communication System), GSM (Global System for Mobile communications), PDC (Personal Digital Cellular), PDA (Personal Digital Assistant), IMT (International Mobile Telecommunication)-2000, CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access)-2000, W-CDMA (W-Code Division Multiple Access) and Wibro (Wireless Broadband Internet) terminal.

Touch screen 110 may be configured to display a bezel area (sometimes, referred to as a first area) and a normal area (sometimes, referred to as a second area) on touch screen 110. As referenced herein, the bezel area may refer to an area that may have a display property and/or a touch sensing property different from that of the normal area even while displaying an image thereon. For example, but not as a limitation, the display property may refer to at least one of a brightness, a resolution, a transparency, a visibility or a chroma. Further, non-limiting examples of the touch sensing property may include at least one of a touch sensitivity or turn on/off of touch sensors formed under the bezel area. The bezel area may be positioned to surround the normal area or to be disposed at an edge of the normal area. Further, the normal area may refer to an area that may be configured to display an image thereon as like an ordinary display device. For example, touch screen 110 may have a touch-sensitive surface that receives a touch input. Touch screen 110 may be configured to receive the touch input to the touch-sensitive surface and converts the touch input into interaction with user-interface objects that are displayed on touch screen 120. By way of example, but not as a limitation, touch screen 110 may use liquid crystal display (LCD) technology, light emitting diode (LED) technology, organic light emitting diode (OLED) technology or light emitting polymer display (LPD) technology. Further, in some embodiments, end device 100 may include a flexible display or a flipable display instead of touch screen 110.

Input receiver 120 may be configured to receive and/or identify a touch input that may be generated by a user of end device 100 on touch screen 110. The user may make the touch input to touch screen 110 using any suitable object or appendage, such as a stylus, finger, and so forth.

Touch screen manager 130 may be configured to determine the bezel area and the normal area on touch screen 110. Specifically, touch screen manager 130 may be configured to determine sizes and/or positions of the bezel area and the normal area on touch screen 110, and to display the bezel area and the normal area based on the determined sizes and/or positions.

In some embodiments, touch screen manager 130 may be configured to determine a size and/or position of the bezel area, based on context information of end device 100. Non-limiting examples of the context information of end device 100 may include at least one of a status of a battery coupled to end device 100, a shape of a grip of a user on touch screen 110, an orientation of end device 100 or an application hosted on end device 100. Touch screen manager 130 may be configured to automatically change the size and/or position of the bezel area, based on context information of end device 100. For example, touch screen manager 130 may be configured to expand the bezel area in size, and resultingly to reduce the normal area in size, if an amount of power charged in the battery of end device 100 remains lower than a predetermined threshold value. For another example, end device 100 may be

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configured to pre-register and/or store, in a corresponding memory of end device **100**, information in which plural kinds of applications executable on end device **100** and corresponding sizes or positions of the bezel area are matched. Touch screen manager **130** may be configured to further change a size and/or a position of the bezel area depending on a kind of an application hosted on end device **100**, based on the pre-registered and/or stored information. For another example, touch screen manager **130** may be configured to recognize a touch area on touch screen **110** on which a finger or a grip of a user is contacted. Further, touch screen manager **130** may be configured to change a size and/or a position of the bezel area based on a shape or a size of the recognized touch area.

Further, in some embodiments, touch screen manager **130** may be configured to determine a size and/or position of the bezel area, based on an external input to end device **100**. For example, but not as a limitation, the external input may be generated by a keyboard, a mouse or a eye tracking sensor which is operatively coupled to end device **100**. For another example, touch screen manager **130** may be configured to determine the bezel area based on a folding or bending action of a user of end device **100**. More specifically, an area which was folded or bent may be set to be the bezel area, when a user of end device **100** folds or bends touch screen **110**. In this case, the bezel area may be positioned on touch screen **110** between at least two normal areas.

Touch screen manager **130** may be configured to determine a display property of the bezel area to be different from that of the normal area. For example, but not as a limitation, the display property of the bezel area may refer to at least one of a brightness, a resolution, a transparency, a visibility or a chroma of the bezel area. In some embodiments, touch screen manager **130** may be configured to determine the display property of the bezel area based, at least in part, on the context information of end device **100**. For example, touch screen manager **130** may be configured to decrease a resolution of a part of an image displayed on the bezel area, if an amount of power charged in the battery of end device **100** remains lower than a predetermined threshold value. For another example, touch screen manager **130** may be configured to decrease a transparency of the bezel area, if a background image of an application, which is relatively inconsequential, is displayed on the bezel area.

Further, in some embodiments, touch screen manager **130** may be configured to divide the bezel area into multiple sub areas. Touch screen manager **130** may be further configured to determine and change the display property of each of the multiple sub areas respectively. So, in some embodiments, a gradation may be generated and displayed on the bezel area in association with a position, on touch screen **110**, of each of the multiple sub areas. For example, but not as a limitation, the more a position of a sub area is distant from an edge of touch screen **110**, the more the brightness of the sub area is increased. So, a gradation of brightness may be generated on the bezel area displayed on touch screen **110**.

Touch screen manager **130** may be configured to determine a touch sensing property of the bezel area to be different from that of the normal area. For example, but not as a limitation, the touch sensing property of the bezel area may include at least one of a touch sensitivity of the bezel area, or turn on/off of touch sensors of the bezel area. In some embodiments, touch screen manager **130** may be configured to determine the touch sensing property of the bezel area based, at least in part, on the context information of end device **100**. For example, touch screen manager **130** may be configured to increase or decrease a touch sensitivity of the bezel area, depending on a kind of an application hosted on end device

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100. Touch screen manager **130** may be configured to increase the touch sensitivity of the bezel area, if an application which may need a relatively high touch sensitivity (e.g., a game application) is executed on end device **100**. On the contrary, touch screen manager **130** may be configured to decrease the touch sensitivity of the bezel area, if an application which may need a relatively low touch sensitivity (e.g., a web browser) is executed on end device **100**. For another example, touch screen manager **130** may be configured to turn off touch sensors formed under at least a portion of the bezel, if an image which does not require a touch interface/interaction is displayed on the bezel area and a hand or a finger of a user of end device **100** is touched to the bezel area.

In some embodiments, touch screen manager **130** may be configured to determine a contour of the bezel area, based, at least in part, on the touch input which is received by input receiver **120**. For example, but not as a limitation, touch screen manager **130** may be configured to recognize a circular line which is drawn by a touch input that draws a circle on touch screen **110**. Touch screen manager **130** may be configured to then change the contour of the bezel area (e.g., a boundary line between the bezel area and the normal area) according to the recognized circular line.

Further, touch screen manager **130** may be configured to determine the contour of the bezel area further based on the context information of end device **100**. A user of end device **100** may generate a touch input to draw the contour of the bezel area, which has a variety of shapes, depending on kinds of applications hosted on end device **100**. For example, a user of end device **100** may draw the contour of the bezel area so that a background image of an application may be displayed even on the bezel area. Since various applications having various background images are executed on end device **100**, the contour of the bezel may also have various shapes. Touch screen manager **130** may be configured to recognize and/or identify a line which is drawn by the touch input on touch screen **110**, and to set the recognized line to be the contour of the bezel area.

Processor **140** may be configured to display an image on both of the bezel area and the normal area. As a non-limiting example of the image displayed on the bezel area and the normal area may include a picture, a frame or a scene of video content, etc. End device **100** may receive the picture or the content from outside of end device **100** via a network. The network may be an interconnected structure of nodes, such as terminals and servers, and allows sharing of information among the nodes. Non-limiting examples of the network may include a wired network protocol, such as LAN (Local Area Network), WAN (Wide Area Network), VAN (Value Added Network), etc.; or various other wireless network protocols, such as a mobile radio communication network including at least one of a 3rd generation (3G) mobile telecommunications network, a 4th or 5th generation mobile telecommunications network, any other mobile telecommunications networks, a satellite network, WiBro (Wireless Broadband Internet), a Wi-Fi network, Mobile WiMAX, HSDPA (High Speed Downlink Packet Access) or the like.

Further, in some embodiments, processor **140** may be configured to receive, via a user interface displayed on touch screen **110**, an input to control operations of touch screen manager **130**. For example, but not as a limitation, processor **140** may be configured to receive an input to select whether to activate or deactivate functions to change at least one of a display property, a touch sensing property, a size, a position or a contour of the bezel area.

FIG. 2 schematically shows an illustrative example of an end device **100** in accordance with at least some embodiments

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described herein. End device **100** may be configured to determine a normal area **210** and a bezel area **220** on touch screen **110**. As depicted in FIG. 2, end device **100** may be configured to display an image **230** both on normal area **210** and on bezel area **220**. Although, in FIG. 2, it seems like that there is no difference between normal area **210** and bezel area **220** except that bezel area **220** surrounds normal area **210**, a touch sensing property of normal area **210** may be different from that of bezel area **220**. For example, but not as a limitation, a touch sensitivity of bezel area **220** may be lower than a touch sensitivity of normal area **210**. Alternatively, touch sensors within normal area **210** may be turned on, while touch sensors within bezel area **220** may be turned off.

Although, in FIG. 2, bezel area **220** is depicted to have a rectangular contour (i.e., a dashed line in FIG. 2), the contour of bezel area **220** may be changed and may have a variety of shapes, such as a circular shape, a star shape, a triangular shape, etc. Further, although, in FIG. 2, bezel area **220** is depicted to surround normal area **210**, a size or a position of bezel area **220** may be changed. For example, but not as a limitation, normal area **210** may take possession of a left side half of touch screen **110** and bezel area **220** may take possession of a right side half of touch screen **110**. For another example, normal area **210** may take possession of an upper part of touch screen **110** and bezel area **220** may take possession of a remaining lower part of touch screen **110**.

FIG. 3 schematically shows another illustrative example of an end device **100** in accordance with at least some embodiments described herein. End device **100** may be configured to determine a normal area **310** and a bezel area **320** on touch screen **110**. As depicted in FIG. 3, end device **100** may be configured to display an image **330** on normal area **310** as well as bezel area **320**. Further, end device **100** may be configured to determine a display property of bezel area **320**, so the display property of bezel area **320** may be different from that of normal area **310**. Non-limiting examples of the display property may include at least one of a brightness, a resolution, a transparency, a visibility or a chroma. For example, but not as a limitation, as depicted in FIG. 3, end device **100** may be configured to decrease at least one of a brightness, a resolution, a transparency, a visibility or a chroma of a part of image **330**, which is displayed on bezel area **320**, as compared to the other part of image **330**, which is displayed on normal area **310**. Further, a touch sensitivity of bezel area **320** may be lower than a touch sensitivity of normal area **310**. Alternatively, touch sensors corresponding to normal area **310** may be turned on, but, touch sensors corresponding to bezel area **320** may be turned off.

Further, end device **100** may be configured to divide bezel area **320** into multiple sub-areas. End device **100** may be further configured to respectively determine the display property of each of the multiple sub-areas of bezel area **320**. For example, but not as a limitation, as depicted in FIG. 3, end device **100** may be configured to divide bezel area **320** into two sub-areas. Further, end device **100** may be configured to determine at least one of a brightness, a resolution, a transparency, a visibility or a chroma of the two sub-areas to be different from each other.

Although, in FIG. 3, bezel area **320** is depicted to have a rectangular contour (i.e., a dashed line in FIG. 3), the contour of bezel area **320** may be changed and may have a variety of shapes, such as a circular shape, a star shape, a triangular shape, etc. Further, although, in FIG. 3, bezel area **320** is depicted to surround normal area **310**, a size or a position of bezel area **320** may be changed.

FIG. 4 schematically shows still another illustrative example of an end device **100** in accordance with at least

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some embodiments described herein. As depicted in FIG. 4, end device **100** may be configured to determine a normal area **410** and a bezel area **420** on touch screen **110**. In some embodiments, end device **100** may be configured to receive a touch input which may be inputted to touch screen **110** by a user of end device **100**. Further, end device **100** may be configured to determine a contour **450** of bezel area **420**, based, at least in part, on the received touch input and an application which is executed on end device **100**.

For example, but not as a limitation, as depicted in FIG. 4, a content displaying part **430** (e.g., a display area on which video content is reproduced) and a control menu part **440** (e.g., a backward icon, a forward icon, a stop icon, a volume icon or video content selecting icon) may be displayed on touch screen **110**. Since it is generally desired that content displaying part **430** does not respond to a touch input during the video content is reproduced, a user of end device **100** may generate a touch input that draws a rectangular line (i.e., a dashed line in FIG. 4) which surrounds a boundary of content playing part **430** in order to set up bezel area **420** to include content playing part **430**. End device **100** may be configured to receive and identify the touch input. Further, end device **100** may be configured to then determine contour **450** of bezel area **420** and to determine a size and/or a position of bezel area **420** which has a lower touch sensitivity than normal area **410**, based at least in part, on the received touch input.

FIGS. 5A to 5D schematically show still another illustrative examples of an end device **100** in accordance with at least some embodiments described herein. End device **100** may be configured to determine a normal area **510**, **530**, **550** or **570** and a bezel area **520**, **540**, **560** or **580** on touch screen **110**. For the purpose of simplification, although, in FIGS. 5A to 5D, end device **100** is depicted to display no image on touch screen, end device **100** may display an image on normal area **510**, **530**, **550** or **570** as well as bezel area **520**, **540**, **560** or **580** on touch screen **110**. In some embodiments, a touch sensitivity of bezel areas **520**, **540**, **560** and **580** may be lower than a touch sensitivity of normal areas **510**, **530**, **550** and **570**. Alternatively, touch sensors corresponding to normal area **510**, **530**, **550** or **570** may be turned on, but, touch sensors corresponding to bezel areas **520**, **540**, **560** and **580** may be turned off.

In some embodiments, end device **100** may be configured to determine and/or change a size or a position of a bezel area, based on at least one of a shape of a grip of a user on touch screen **110** or an orientation of end device **100**. End device **100** may be configured to include a sensor to sense the orientation of end device **100**. Non-limiting examples of the sensor may include a gyro sensor, an acceleration sensor, a geomagnetic sensor, etc. Further, end device **100** may be configured to recognize and identify a shape of a grip, based on an area where a finger or a hand of the user touches. Alternatively, end device **100** may be configured to pre-register and store, in a corresponding memory, information regarding a shape or a direction of a grip of a user of end device **100**.

For example, but not as a limitation, end device **100** may be configured to determine shapes or sizes of normal area **510** and bezel area **520** so that normal area **510** has, e.g., a trapezoid shape, as depicted in FIG. 5A, when a user of end device **100** holds end device **100** with a left hand in a vertical orientation (i.e., a vertical side **501** of end device **100** is oriented in a vertical direction D1).

For another example, end device **100** may be configured to determine shapes or sizes of normal area **530** and bezel area **540** so that normal area **530** has, e.g., a trapezoid shape, as depicted in FIG. 5B, when a user of end device **100** holds end

device **100** with a right hand in a vertical orientation (i.e., vertical side **501** of end device **100** is oriented in vertical direction D1).

For another example, end device **100** may be configured to determine shapes or sizes of normal area **550** and bezel area **560** so that normal area **550** has e.g., a trapezoid shape, as depicted in FIG. 5C, when a user of end device **100** holds end device **100** with a left hand in a horizontal orientation (i.e., a horizontal side **502** of end device **100** is oriented in vertical direction D1).

For another example, end device **100** may be configured to determine shapes or sizes of normal area **570** and bezel area **580** so that normal area **570** has e.g., a trapezoid shape, as depicted in FIG. 5D, when a user of end device **100** holds end device **100** with a right hand in a horizontal orientation (i.e., vertical edge **501** of end device **100** is oriented in a horizontal direction D2). Although, in FIGS. 5A to 5D, normal area **510**, **530**, **550** or **570** are depicted to have a trapezoid shape, a shape or size of normal area **510**, **530**, **550** or **570** may be changed.

FIG. 6 schematically shows another example configuration of an end device **100** in accordance with at least some embodiments described herein. As depicted in FIG. 6, end device **100** may include a bezel control manager **610**, an operating system **620** and a processor **630**. Although illustrated as discrete components, various components may be divided into additional components, combined into fewer components, or eliminated altogether while being contemplated within the scope of the disclosed subject matter. It will be understood by those skilled in the art that each function and/or operation of the components may be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by a wide range of hardware, software, firmware, or virtually any combination thereof. In some embodiments, bezel control manager **610** may be an application adapted to operate on operating system **620** such that a bezel displayed on a touch screen as described herein may be provided. Operating system **620** may allow bezel control manager **610** to manipulate processor **630** to implement the bezel displayed on a touch screen as described herein.

Processor **630** may be implemented as any processor, such as a complex instruction set computer (CISC) microprocessor, a reduced instruction set computing (RISC) microprocessor, a very long instruction word (VLIW) microprocessor, a processor implementing a combination of instruction sets, or other processor device. Processor **630** may be implemented as a dedicated processor, such as a controller, microcontroller, embedded processor, a digital signal processor (DSP), a network processor, a media processor, an input/output (I/O) processor, etc.

FIG. 7 schematically shows an example configuration of a bezel control manager **610** in accordance with at least some embodiments described herein. As depicted in FIG. 7, bezel control manager **610** may include an input receiving component **710**, a bezel area determining component **720**, a bezel property determining component **730** and an image displaying component **740**. Although illustrated as discrete components, various components may be divided into additional components, combined into fewer components, or eliminated altogether while being contemplated within the scope of the disclosed subject matter. It will be understood by those skilled in the art that each function and/or operation of the components may be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by a wide range of hardware, software, firmware, or virtually any combination thereof.

Input receiving component **710** may be configured to receive and/or identify a touch input that may be generated by

a user of end device **100** on touch screen **110**. The user may make the touch input to touch screen **110** using any suitable object or appendage, such as a stylus, finger, and so forth.

Bezel area determining unit **720** may be configured to determine a bezel area and a normal area on touch screen **110**. Bezel area determining unit **720** may be configured to determine sizes and/or positions of the bezel area and the normal area on touch screen **110**, and to determine the bezel area and the normal area based on the determined sizes and/or positions. In some embodiments, bezel area determining unit **720** may be configured to determine a size and/or position of the bezel area, based on context information of end device **100**. Non-limiting examples of the context information of end device **100** may include at least one of a status of a battery coupled to end device **100**, a shape of a grip of a user on touch screen **110**, an orientation of end device **100** or an application hosted on end device **100**.

In some embodiments, bezel area determining unit **720** may be configured to determine a contour of the bezel area, based, at least in part, on the touch input which is received by input receiving component **710**. For example, but not as a limitation, bezel area determining unit **720** may be configured to recognize a circular line which is drawn by a touch input that draws a circle on touch screen **110**. Bezel area determining unit **720** may be configured to then change the contour of the bezel area (e.g., a boundary line between the bezel area and the normal area) into the recognized circular line.

Bezel property determining component **730** may be configured to determine a display property of the bezel area. For example, but not as a limitation, the display property of the bezel area may refer to at least one of a brightness, a resolution, a transparency, a visibility or a chroma of the bezel area. In some embodiments, bezel property determining component **730** may be configured to determine the display property of the bezel area based, at least in part, on the context information of end device **100**. For example, bezel property determining component **730** may be configured to change a resolution of an image displayed on the bezel area, depending on a status of a battery coupled to end device **100**.

Bezel property determining component **730** may be further configured to determine a touch sensing property of the bezel area. For example, but not as a limitation, the touch sensing property of the bezel area may include at least one of a touch sensitivity of the bezel area, or turn on/off of touch sensors of the bezel area. In some embodiments, bezel property determining component **730** may be configured to determine the touch sensing property of the bezel area based, at least in part, on the context information of end device **100**. For example, bezel property determining component **730** may be configured to increase the touch sensitivity of the bezel area, if an application which may need a relatively high touch sensitivity (e.g., a game application) is executed on end device **100**. On the contrary, bezel property determining component **730** may be configured to decrease the touch sensitivity of the bezel area, if an application which may need a relatively low touch sensitivity (e.g., a web browser) is executed on end device **100**.

Image displaying component **740** may be configured to display an image on the bezel area and the normal area of touch screen **110**. As a non-limiting example of the image displayed on the bezel area and the normal area may include a picture, a frame or a scene of video content, etc.

FIG. 8 shows an example processing flow **800** for implementing at least portions of a bezel area on a touch screen described herein. The process in FIG. 8 may be implemented by end device **100** including touch screen **110**, input receiver **120**, touch screen manager **130** and processor **140**, as illus-

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trated in FIG. 1. An example process may include one or more operations, actions, or functions as illustrated by one or more blocks 810, 820 and/or 830. Although illustrated as discrete blocks, various blocks may be divided into additional blocks, combined into fewer blocks, or eliminated, depending on the desired implementation. Processing may begin at block 810.

At block 810 (Determine Bezel Area and Normal Area), touch screen manager 130 may determine a bezel area and a normal area on touch screen 110. At block 810, touch screen manager 130 may determine sizes and/or positions of the bezel area and the normal area on touch screen 110, and determine the bezel area and the normal area based on the determined sized and/or positions. Processing may proceed from block 810 to block 820.

At block 820 (Determine Property of Bezel Area), touch screen manager 130 may determine at least one of a display property or a touch sensing property of the bezel area determined at block 810. Touch screen manager 130 may determine the display property or the touch sensing property of the bezel area to be different from that of the normal area. For example, but not as a limitation, the display property of the bezel area may refer to at least one of a brightness, a resolution, a transparency, a visibility or a chroma of the bezel area. For example, touch screen manager 130 may reduce brightness of the bezel area to be less than that of the normal area. Further, for example, but not as a limitation, the touch sensing property of the bezel area may include at least one of a touch sensitivity of the bezel area, or turn on/off of touch sensors of the bezel area. For example, touch screen manager 130 may turn off touch sensors of the bezel area and turn on touch sensors of the normal area.

In some embodiments, touch screen manager 130 may determine the display property or the touch sensing property of the bezel area based, at least in part, on context information of end device 100. Non-limiting examples of the context information of end device 100 may include at least one of a status of a battery coupled to end device 100, a shape of a grip of a user on touch screen 110, an orientation of end device 100 or an application hosted on end device 100. Processing may proceed from block 820 to block 830.

At block 830 (Display Image on Bezel Area and Normal Area), processor 140 may display an image on the normal area and the bezel area that has the determined display property and/or touch sensing property. As a non-limiting example of the image displayed on the bezel area and the normal area may include a picture, a frame or a scene of video content, etc.

FIG. 9 shows another example processing flow 900 for implementing at least portions of a bezel area on a touch screen described herein. The process in FIG. 9 may be implemented by end device 100 including touch screen 110, input receiver 120, touch screen manager 130 and processor 140, as illustrated in FIG. 1. An example process may include one or more operations, actions, or functions as illustrated by one or more blocks 910, 920, 930, 940, 950 and/or 960. Although illustrated as discrete blocks, various blocks may be divided into additional blocks, combined into fewer blocks, or eliminated, depending on the desired implementation. Processing may begin at block 910.

At block 910 (Determine Size of Bezel Area), touch screen manager 130 may determine a size and/or a position of a bezel area on touch screen 110 based, at least in part, on context information of end device 100. Non-limiting examples of the context information of end device 100 may include at least one of a status of a battery coupled to end device 100, a shape of a grip of a user on touch screen 110, an orientation of end device 100 or an application hosted on end device 100. Processing may proceed from block 910 to block 920.

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At block 920 (Receive Touch Input), input receiver 120 may receive and/or identify a touch input that may be generated by a user of end device 100 on touch screen 110. For example, input receiver 120 may identify a touch input that draws a circle on touch screen 110. Processing may proceed from block 920 to block 930.

At block 930 (Determine Contour of Bezel Area), touch screen manager 130 may determine a contour of the bezel area, based, at least in part, on the touch input received at block 920. As for the above example, touch screen manager 130 may change the contour of the bezel area into a circular line that is drawn by the touch input received at block 920. Processing may proceed from block 930 to block 940.

At block 940 (Determine Normal Area and Bezel Area), touch screen manager 130 may determine a normal area and the bezel area on touch screen 110, based on information regarding the size of the bezel area, which is determined at block 910 and the contour of the bezel area, which is determined at block 930. Processing may proceed from block 940 to block 950.

At block 950 (Determine Property of Bezel Area), touch screen manager 130 may determine at least one of a display property or a touch sensing property of the bezel area determined at block 940. Touch screen manager 130 may determine the display property or the touch sensing property of the bezel area to be different from that of the normal area. For example, but not as a limitation, the display property of the bezel area may refer to at least one of a brightness, a resolution, a transparency, a visibility or a chroma of the bezel area. Further, for example, but not as a limitation, the touch sensing property of the bezel area may include at least one of a touch sensitivity of the bezel area, or turn on/off of touch sensors of the bezel area. In some embodiments, at block 950, touch screen manager 130 may determine the display property or the touch sensing property of the bezel area, based on the context information of end device 100. For example, touch screen manager 130 may reduce brightness of the bezel area to be less than that of the normal area or may turn off touch sensors of the bezel area, if an amount of power charged in a battery of end device 100 remains lower than a predetermined threshold value. Processing may proceed from block 950 to block 960.

At block 960 (Display Image on Bezel Area and Normal Area), processor 140 may display an image on the normal area and the bezel area that has the determined display property and/or touch sensing property. As a non-limiting example of the image displayed on the bezel area and the normal area may include a picture, a frame or a scene of video content, etc.

The examples described above, with regard to FIGS. 1-9, may be implemented in a computing environment having components that include, but are not limited to, one or more processors, system memory, and a system bus that couples various system components. Further, the computing environment may include a variety of computer readable media that are accessible by any of the various components, and includes both volatile and non-volatile media, removable and non-removable media.

Various modules and techniques may be described herein in the general context of computer-executable instructions, such as program modules, executed by one or more computers or other devices. Generally, program modules include routines, programs, objects, components, data structures, etc. for performing particular tasks or implement particular abstract data types. Typically, the functionality of the program modules may be combined or distributed as desired in various embodiments.

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An implementation of these modules and techniques may be stored on or transmitted across some form of computer readable media. Computer readable media can be any available media that can be accessed by a computer. By way of example, but not limitation, computer readable media may comprise computer storage media and communications media.

Computer storage media includes volatile and non-volatile, removable and non-removable media implemented in any method or technology for storage of information such as computer readable instructions, data structures, program modules, or other data. Computer storage media includes, but is not limited to, RAM, ROM, EEPROM, flash memory or other memory technology, CD-ROM, digital versatile disks (DVD) or other optical storage, magnetic cassettes, magnetic tape, magnetic disk storage or other magnetic storage devices, or any other medium which can be used to store the desired information and which can be accessed by a computer.

Communication media typically embodies computer readable instructions, data structures, program modules, or other data in a modulated data signal, such as carrier wave or other transport mechanism. Communication media also includes any information delivery media. The term modulated data signal means a signal that has one or more of its characteristics set or changed in such a manner as to encode information in the signal. As a non-limiting example only, communication media includes wired media such as a wired network or direct-wired connection, and wireless media such as acoustic, RF, infrared, and other wireless media. Combinations of any of the above are also included within the scope of computer readable media.

Reference has been made throughout this specification to “one embodiment,” “an embodiment,” or “an example embodiment” meaning that a particular described feature, structure, or characteristic is included in at least one embodiment of the present invention. Thus, usage of such phrases may refer to more than just one embodiment. Furthermore, the described features, structures, or characteristics may be combined in any suitable manner in one or more embodiments.

While example embodiments and applications of the present invention have been illustrated and described, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the precise configuration and resources described above. Various modifications, changes, and variations apparent to those skilled in the art may be made in the arrangement, operation, and details of the methods and systems of the present invention disclosed herein without departing from the scope of the claimed invention.

One skilled in the relevant art may recognize, however, that the invention may be practiced without one or more of the specific details, or with other methods, resources, materials, etc. In other instances, well known structures, resources, or operations have not been shown or described in detail merely to avoid obscuring aspects of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An end device, comprising:

a touch screen;

a touch screen manager configured to:

determine a first area and a second area on the touch screen, and

determine at least one of a display property or a touch sensing property of the first area to be different from that of the second area; and

a processor configured to:

display an image on the first area and the second area,

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wherein the touch screen manager is further configured to determine a size and/or a position of the first area, based at least in part on context information of the end device, and

the context information includes a status of a battery coupled to the end device.

2. The end device of claim 1, further comprising:

an input receiver configured to receive a touch input, and wherein the touch screen manager is further configured to determine a contour of the first area, based at least in part on the received touch input.

3. The end device of claim 1, wherein the context information further includes at least one of a shape of a grip of a user on the touch screen, an orientation of the end device or an application hosted on the end device.

4. The end device of claim 1, wherein the touch sensing property includes at least one of a touch sensitivity of the first area, or turn on/off of touch sensors of the first area.

5. The end device of claim 1, wherein the display property includes at least one of a brightness, a resolution, a transparency, a visibility or a chroma of the first area.

6. The end device of claim 1, wherein the touch screen manager is further configured to:

divide the first area into a plurality of sub-areas, and

respectively determine the display property of each of the plurality of sub-areas.

7. A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium having thereon computer-executable instructions that, in response to execution, cause one or more processors of an end device having a touch screen to perform operations, comprising:

determining a first area and a second area on the touch screen;

determining at least one of a display property or a touch sensing property of the first area to be different from that of the second area; and

displaying an image on the first area and the second area, wherein the determining of the first area and the second area comprises determining a size and/or a position of the first area based at least in part on context information of the end device, and

the context information includes a status of a battery coupled to the end device.

8. The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 7, wherein the operations further comprises:

receiving a touch input; and

determining a contour of the first area, based at least in part on the received touch input.

9. The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 7, wherein the context information further includes at least one of a shape of a grip of a user on the touch screen, an orientation of the end device or an application hosted on the end device.

10. The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 7, wherein the touch sensing property includes at least one of a touch sensitivity of the first area, or turn on/off of touch sensors of the first area.

11. The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 7, wherein the display property includes at least one of a brightness, a resolution, a transparency, a visibility or a chroma of the first area.

12. The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 7, wherein the determining of the display property of the first area includes:

dividing the first area into a plurality of sub-areas, and respectively determining the display property of each of the plurality of sub-areas.

13. A method performed under control of an end device having a touch screen, comprising:
determining a first area and a second area on the touch screen;
determining at least one of a display property or a touch 5
sensing property of the first area to be different from that of the second area; and
displaying an image on the first area and the second area, wherein the determining of the first area and the second area comprises determining a size and/or a position of 10
the first area based at least in part on context information of the end device, and
the context information includes a status of a battery coupled to the end device.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising: 15
receiving a touch input; and
determining a contour of the first area, based at least in part on the received touch input.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the context information further includes at least one of a shape of a grip of a user 20
on the touch screen, an orientation of the end device or an application hosted on the end device.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein the touch sensing property includes at least one of a touch sensitivity of the first area, or turn on/off of touch sensors of the first area. 25

17. The method of claim 13, wherein the display property includes at least one of a brightness, a resolution, a transparency, a visibility or a chroma of the first area.

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